

**Testimony of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
To the Appropriations Committee
Regarding the Governor's Budget Proposals for the
Department of Labor
2/11/14**

To Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee, I am writing on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 90 to comment on a few of the Governor's FY15 budget proposals under the Department of Labor.

The Governor has proposed adding six additional staff to the DOL to investigate complaints and ensure compliance with wage and workplace standards. The IBEW supports the addition of staff and any boost to investigation efforts as workplace violations are no small matter. The IBEW is a strong proponent of safety standards on the worksite and therefore we welcome this proposal.

Secondly, the Governor has also proposed to reduce the line item for the Apprenticeship program under the DOL by 50 thousand dollars which we feel is unfortunate. While this may seem like an insignificant cut to many, the IBEW feels very strongly that the Apprenticeship program is one of the most important workforce development programs around, and any reduction of funding would be noticed. Over the years there have been many hits to the program, from increasing registration fees for individuals becoming apprentices as well as employers sponsoring those apprentices, to attempts to raid the fund which is set aside to support the administration of the program. CT's Apprenticeship program is an admirable one, and we hope the legislature and the Governor will acknowledge this by maintaining adequate funding.

Thank you for your consideration for these issues.

Sincerely,

Sean Daly
President
IBEW Local 90